Applicant: Peter Neswal
Application No.: 10/580,441
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IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for the automatic installation and configuration of software components in a computer network which comprises a plurality of client computers and at least one network resource of installable software components, comprising the steps of:

a)   provision of a framework on the network resource which comprises a rule package for each of the installable software components of the network resource and a list of rule packages to be run, but not the software components themselves,

wherein at least one of the rule packages comprises a routine for loading its software component from the network resource and installing it on a client computer and at least this or one of the other rule packages comprises a routine for configuring its software component installed on a client computer,

b)   transferring the ~~entire~~ framework to [[a]] the client computer; ~~and~~

c)   running the list of rule packages ~~with installation routines to be run~~ on the client computer a first time to identify installation routines to be run [[,]];

d)   calling ~~their~~ the installation routines, ~~and again~~

e)   running the list of rule packages ~~with configuration routines to be run~~ on the client computer a second time to identify configuration routines corresponding to the identified installation routines to be run[[,]]; and

f)   calling ~~their~~ the configuration routines,

wherein at least step c) is triggered by a local event on the particular client computer.

2.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein step c) is triggered by a system startup or shutdown, system lock or share, user logon or logoff, network logon or logoff, program startup or shutdown, connection or disconnection of hardware or by a timer.

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3.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, in which successful installation of a software component on a client computer may have as a prerequisite the presence or absence of another software component or[[,]] configuration or deconfiguration of another software component, wherein,

in step a), the framework comprises a detector for each possible prerequisite and at least one of the rule packages comprises a routine for deinstalling its software component from a client computer and at least this or one of the other rule packages comprises a routine for undoing the configuration of its software component on a client computer, and,

in step c), if in the course of a rule package it is established by means of a detector that the presence or absence installation or deinstallation, configuration or deconfiguration of another software component is necessary, the installation or deinstallation routine, configuration or deconfiguration routine of the rule package assigned to this other software component is called.

4.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the framework also comprises detectors for a client computer's hardware or operating system and, in the course of a routine, it is verified by means of such a detector whether the client computer is suitable for the particular installation, deinstallation, configuration or deconfiguration of the software component.

5.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein, in the course of a routine, it is checked in advance whether the particular installation, deinstallation, configuration or deconfiguration of the software component has already taken place on the client computer and, if so, the routine is immediately terminated.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of step b) and/or and step c) is also triggered by a remote event on the network resource, preferably wherein the remote event includes the transmission of a group or broadcast message.

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7.   (Currently Amended) A non-transitory machine readable medium storing instructions including a rule package which is executable on an operating system of a client computer for the automatic installation and configuration of software components, which are available on a network resource, on the client computer, wherein the rule package comprises a reference to a software component on the network resource and wherein execution of the instructions by the client computer causes the client computer to perform comprises at least one of the following four routines: a routine for installing this software component on the client computer, a routine for deinstalling this software component from the client computer, a routine for configuring said software component installed on the client computer, and a routine for undoing the configuration of this software component installed on the client computer (2), wherein each routine, if it establishes a presence or an absence requirement of another software component, branches to the installation or a deinstallation routine of another rule package assigned to this other software component.

8.   (Currently Amended) A rule package machine readable medium according to claim 7, wherein it the rule package comprises a reference to a client computer's specific hardware and/or operating system and, and wherein execution of the instructions causes the client computer to verify, by means of this reference, verifies whether the client computer is suitable for the particular installation, deinstallation, configuration or deconfiguration of the software component.

9.   (Currently Amended) A rule package machine readable medium according to claim 7, wherein it verifies execution of the instructions causes the client computer to verify whether the particular installation, deinstallation, configuration or deconfiguration of the software component on the client computer has already occurred and, if so, terminates its execution.

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10.   (Currently Amended) A ~~rule package~~ machine readable medium according to claim 7, wherein ~~it~~ the rule package contains at least one trigger reference to a local event on the client computer, wherein execution of the instructions causes the client computer to assign ~~the trigger reference assigns~~ at least one of the routines of the rule package to this event based on the at least one trigger reference.

11.   (Currently Amended) A ~~rule package~~ machine readable medium according to claim 7, wherein ~~it~~ the rule package further contains at least one trigger reference to a remote event on the network resource, wherein execution of the instructions by the client computer cause the client computer to assign ~~the trigger reference assigns~~ at least one of the routines of the rule package to this event based on the at least one trigger reference.

12.   (Currently Amended) A ~~rule package~~ machine readable medium according to claim 7, wherein ~~it may be~~ the rule package is put in an inactive state in which only ~~its~~ deinstallation and deconfiguration routines of the rule package are callable ~~can be called~~.

13.   (Previously Presented) A computer which is programmed with at least one rule package according to claim 7.

14.   (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium according to claim 7, wherein the medium stores instructions including a framework ~~which may be~~ provided ~~on~~ by a network resource in a computer network for execution on a plurality of client computers for the automatic installation and configuration on the client computers of software components available on the network resource, the framework including a set of rule packages, a set of detectors for each possible prerequisite, and a list of rule packages to be run on the client computers, wherein a prerequisite of successful installation of a software component ~~may have as a prerequisite~~ includes the presence or absence of another software component~~, wherein the framework~~

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~~comprises a set of rule packages according to claim 7, a set of detectors for each possible prerequisite, and a list of rule packages to be run on the client computers.~~

15.   (Currently Amended) A ~~framework~~ machine readable medium according to claim 14, wherein the framework in conjunction with a rule package ~~that~~ comprises a reference to at least one of a client computer's specific hardware ~~and/or~~ and operating system ~~and~~, wherein execution of the instructions by the client computer causes the client computer to verify ~~by means of this reference, verifies~~ whether the client computer is suitable for the particular installation, deinstallation, configuration or deconfiguration of the software component by means of the reference, wherein the framework also comprises detectors for a client computer's hardware or operating system and provides the rule packages for the stated verification.

16.   (Previously Presented) A computer which is programmed with a framework according to claim 14.

17.   (Currently Amended) A machine-readable data ~~storage~~ medium according to claim 14, wherein the medium is associated with the client computer which is programmed with a framework ~~according to claim 14~~.

18.   (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium according to claim 14, wherein the medium stores a client program which is ~~executable on~~ executed by a client computer ~~(2) for the automatic installation and configuration of~~ to automatically install and configure, on the client computer, software components~~, which are~~ available on a network resource, ~~on the client computer, wherein it receives and stores a framework according to claim 14, in a first pass,~~ wherein execution of the client program runs the list of rule packages to be run in a first pass, calling their installation routines, and ~~in a second pass~~ runs the list of rule packages to be run in a second pass, calling their configuration routines.

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19.   (Currently Amended) A ~~client program~~ machine readable medium according to claim 18, wherein ~~it~~ the medium stores a client program comprising ~~comprises~~ a local database which contains a list of rule packages with installation routines which have run successfully and a list of rule packages with configuration routines which have run successfully.

20.   (Currently Amended) A ~~client program~~ machine readable medium according to claim 19, wherein ~~it~~ execution of the client program causes the client computer to compare ~~compares~~ the rule packages entered in the lists with the rule packages contained in the framework and, for those rule packages which do not appear in the framework, runs their deconfiguration routines in a first pass and their deinstallation routines in a second pass.

21.   (Currently Amended) A ~~client program~~ machine readable medium according to claim 18, wherein the client program in conjunction with a rule package ~~which~~ is executable on an operating system of a client computer for the automatic installation and configuration of software components, which are available on a network resource, on the client computer, the rule package comprising a reference to a software component on the network resource ~~and~~, wherein execution of the client program in conjunction with the rule package cause the operating system of the client computer to perform ~~comprising~~ at least one of ~~the following four routines~~: a routine for installing this software component on the client computer, a routine for deinstalling this software component from the client computer, a routine for configuring said software component installed on the client computer, and a routine for undoing the configuration of this software component installed on the client computer, wherein each routine, if it establishes a presence or absence requirement of another software component, branches to the installation or deinstallation routine of another rule package assigned to this other software component, the rule package further containing at least one trigger reference to a local event on the client computer, wherein the trigger reference assigns at least one of the routines of the rule package to this event, wherein the program monitors the occurrence of a local event on the client computer, ~~preferably~~ the local event including at least one of a system startup or shutdown, system lock or share, user logon or

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logoff, network logon or logoff, program startup or shutdown, connection or disconnection of hardware ~~or~~ and response of a timer, and calls the corresponding rule package routine which is assigned via the trigger reference to said event.

22.   (Currently Amended) A ~~client program~~ machine readable medium according to claim 18, ~~in conjunction with a rule package which is executable on an operating system of a client computer for the automatic installation and configuration of software components, which are available on a network resource, on the client computer, the rule package comprising a reference to a software component on the network resource and comprising~~ wherein execution of the client program in conjunction with the rule package cause the client computer to perform at least one of ~~the following four routines~~: a routine for installing this software component on the client computer, a routine for deinstalling this software component from the client computer, a routine for configuring said software component installed on the client computer, and a routine for undoing the configuration of this software component installed on the client computer, wherein each routine, if it establishes a presence or absence requirement of another software component, branches to the installation or deinstallation routine of another rule package assigned to this other software component, the rule package further containing at least one trigger reference to a remote event on the network resource, wherein the trigger reference assigns at least one of the routines of the rule package to this event, wherein ~~the program further~~ execution of the client program causes the client computer to monitor ~~monitors~~ the occurrence of a remote event on the network resource~~, preferably the~~ including at least one of a transmission of a group ~~or~~ and a broadcast message[[,]] and ~~calls~~ call the corresponding rule package routine which is assigned via the trigger reference to this event.

23.   (Currently Amended) A ~~client program~~ machine readable medium according to claim 18, wherein ~~it~~ the client program comprises a transaction system for each system-modifying component, ~~in particular for~~ wherein each system-modifying component includes at least one of the rule packages.

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24.   (Currently Amended) A computer which is programmed with a client program according to claim 18.

25.   (Currently Amended) A <u>non-transitory computer readable medium storing a</u> computer program<u>, wherein execution of the computer program implements</u> ~~implementing~~ a method according claim 1.

26.   (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein a prerequisite of successful installation of one of the software components is deconfiguration of another software component that is already installed on the client computer.